



Summary of Consultation Outcomes



This report summarises the outcomes of the public consultation carried out by the Governing Bodies of FST Primary Schools Federation and Langton Primary School on a proposal to federate and form 'North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation'.

Consultation undertaken

The public consultation opened on 23 April 2025 and concluded on 5 June 2025.

We formally consulted with:

- All parents of children at the four schools
- All staff employed at the four schools
- DfE Secretary of State
- North Yorkshire Council Children & Young People Service
- York Diocese Board of Education
- The Parish Council for each school
- The County Councillor for each school
- The Parochial Church Council for each school
- North Yorkshire Council recognised Trade Unions

Full details of the consultation were also published on the schools' websites.

Public meetings

As part of our commitment to ensuring all stakeholders' voices are heard; during the Consultation period, five public meetings were held, one at each of the schools and one online. Interested parties were invited to attend any of these open meetings to find out more about the proposal, ask questions, and express their views.

The public meetings were attended by 3 consultees in total:

- At Foston - 1 Foston parent, 1 Stillington community member/Parish Councillor
- At Langton - 1 Langton parent
- At Stillington, Terrington, and the online meeting there were no attendees

Staff Consultation meeting

A separate consultation for staff employed at the four schools ran alongside the public consultation. The separate staff consultation meeting was held at Langton Primary School, with optional online attendance. The meeting was supported by a North Yorkshire HR partner and Trade Union representatives.

- 34 staff attended in total: 17 in person, and 17 online
- There were no questions, or issues raised by staff during the meeting

Summary of consultee responses received

Consultees were invited to share their views on the proposal to federate via:

- Completing and returning a paper response form
- Completing an online Microsoft Forms questionnaire,
- E-mailing a response to the dedicated FST or Langton consultation e-mail address

By the consultation closing date, 13 responses had been received in total:

- 2 paper response forms handed into school (1 at Langton, 1 at Stillington)
- 10 via Microsoft Forms,
- 1 via consultation email (FST)

Of the 13 responses received:

- 11 included free text comments

Of the 12 responses that had indicated an 'interest':

- 5 are attributed to parents (1 Foston, 3 Langton, 1 Stillington)
- 4 are attributed to staff members (3 FST, 1 did not indicate which school)
- 2 are attributed to Parochial Church Councils (1 Terrington, 1 Foston)
- 1 is attributed to a Parish Councillor (Stillington)

Of the 13 responses received:

- 8 supported the proposal to federate
- 5 did not support the proposal

Of the 5 responses that did not support the proposal:

- 3 are attributed to Langton parents
- 1 is attributed to a Stillington parent
- 1 was anonymous

Clarification of the key points from the consultation 'free text' responses

Expanding the federation

There is no maximum number of schools that could federate. However, our focus for the foreseeable future will be to secure the existing partnership and ensure that the four schools continue to thrive within the new federation.

Admissions

The admissions arrangements for the four schools will remain separate, and as they are now:

- North Yorkshire Council (NYC) will remain the admissions authority for Foston Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School; Langton Primary School; and Stillington Community Primary School.
- Due to its Church of England (Voluntary Aided) status, the admissions authority for Terrington is the Governing Body of the school; the new North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation Governing Board will become the Admissions Authority for Terrington, in place of the current FST Primary Schools Federation Governing Board.

Pupil Number projections

We recognise concerns about falling birth rates and the vulnerability of small rural schools, as their funding from the DfE is based on pupil numbers. We are fortunate that in the FST schools, and at Langton School the pupil number projections in the 2025/26 financial year Start Budgets show a relatively stable situation:

	2024 Census, 2025/26 Funding	2025 Census, 2026/27 Funding	2026 Census, 2027/28 Funding
Langton	103	97	97
Foston & Terrington	82	90	87
Stillington	27	26	26
Total	212	213	210

Our aim, through the federation, is to improve our small schools' long-term resilience, ensuring they remain sustainable and continue to serve their communities in the short, medium, and long term. The Local Authority, York Diocese, and both governing bodies are confident in the current viability of the four schools.

Pupil number projections provided by NYC Strategic Services will continue to be regularly evaluated, alongside consideration of other contributing factors, (i.e., planned housing development, local schools' capacity, and the impact of recent changes to the Home to School transport offer) to inform the federation's strategic planning.

Curriculum development and standards oversight

Following Langton's Ofsted, which identified curriculum planning as an area for improvement, Langton's existing curriculum plans were reviewed and a consultation with staff and parents was undertaken. Feedback from the consultation was considered by curriculum leaders across the collaboration in developing shared curriculum planning.

The Executive Headteacher will ensure robust oversight of curriculum and standards across the four schools through:

- **Clear leadership structures** to ensure consistency and high standards
- **A shared strategic plan** that sets out consistent expectations and priorities for curriculum and pupil outcomes
- **Regular monitoring and reporting:** The Executive Headteacher works closely with heads of school and subject leaders across the schools, holding regular meetings to review curriculum development and delivery, teaching quality, and pupil progress.
- **Standardised assessment and data tracking:** There are common systems for tracking pupil attainment and progress, enabling comparisons and targeted support where needed.
- **Local Authority monitoring:** North Yorkshire School Improvement advisers carry out regular monitoring and support visits.
- **Governance oversight:** The governing board receives regular reports on standards and curriculum, and governors carry out monitoring visits to triangulate information and provide challenge and support.

These arrangements ensure that best practice is shared, any issues are identified early, and high standards are maintained across all four schools.

SENCO Capacity (particularly at Foston CE Primary School)

Provision for children with SEND is a strength at FST schools.

The collaboration (and now federation) provides the opportunity to strengthen our SEND offer and increase Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) capacity by:

- appointing an additional SENCO – initially working across FST with support from our experienced SENCO to ensure a smooth transition for children and families at FST schools.
- allocating timetabled, dedicated SENCO time
- ensuring the federation has a clear succession plan, to provide stability and maintain high quality SEND provision.

The schools' SEND offers are regularly reviewed and necessary adjustments made in order to strengthen our SEND offer.

Financial arrangements

On federation, and certainly in the short to medium term, the financial arrangements between the schools will remain the same as they are now:

- Foston and Terrington operating a joint budget; Langton and Stillington will retain their separate budgets. No school's budget will be used to subsidise another.
- Shared leadership costs, such as the Executive Headteacher and Heads of School, will continue to be split appropriately and proportionately between the relevant budgets. For Langton this will initially be in line with the current collaboration Service Level Agreements between FST and Langton Governing Boards. The new federation Governing Board will regularly review the 'split' to ensure it remains a fair reflection of the proportion of Leaders' time necessary for each school (informed by factors such as pupil numbers, school development priorities, staffing etc).
- Common procurement will continue to be used (as it has been in the current partnership) if this is the most cost effective option. Overall costs for the supplies or services provided will be shared proportionally, relative to the actual cost to each school.
- Repairs and maintenance costs will continue to be found from individual school budgets. Devolved formula capital (DFC) is allocated from the Local Authority (or Diocese in the case of Terrington) for individual schools to spend on capital projects. There will be no 'pooling' of these funds, or equalisation of costs across the schools.
- The governing body will continue to ensure robust oversight and accountability.
- As Local Authority (LA) Maintained Schools, North Yorkshire Council retains overall responsibility for the financial viability of each school.

Transparency financial data is available for our schools through the link on the schools' websites; or directly here: [Home - Financial Benchmarking and Insights Tool - GOV.UK](#)